

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000
PUBLIC LAW 106-393
TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM
USDA FOREST SERVICE

Name of Resource Advisory Committee:

Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):

Funding Fiscal Year(s):

2. Project Name: Increasing Forest Structure for Snowshoe Hare and Other Wildlife	3a. State: MN 3b. County(s): Cass, Itasca, Beltrami
4. Project Submitted By: LLRes. DRM	5. Date: 7/5/16
6. Contact Phone Number: 218-335-7421	7. Contact E-mail: smortensen@lldrm.org

8. Project Location:	
a. National Forest(s): Chippewa	b. Forest Service District: all
c. Location (Township-Range-Section) TBD	

9. Project Goals and Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase snowshoe hare (SH) habitat in areas of CNF for the benefit of predators that feed on them and to increase hare availability for tribal member harvest. This work will be conducted in areas surrounding primary SH habitat suitable for increasing woody structure to serve as secondary SH hiding cover.• Assess current hare population at these sites• Create habitat suitable for Hare using a variety of techniques.• Where possible utilize thinning/forestry management practices to increase suitable habitat area• Follow up assessments to determine if habitat was improved and to see if hare population is increasing.• Create list of vetted sites that are suitable for future work of this kind

10. Project Description: <p>a. Brief: (<i>in one sentence</i>) Increase Forest Structure for Snowshoe Hare and Other Wildlife</p> <p>b. Detailed: This project will focus on creating forest structural diversity for wildlife. This will also benefit people who live and recreate here and support the local economy. It will also help to restore a traditionally utilized resource of tribal members. Through current forest management practices we have reduced the structural and species complexity of many of our forest types. This is not only bad for wildlife, but for user groups that are interested in hunting, trapping and other non-consumptive uses of the forest. The focus of the project will be to increase habitat for snowshoe hare, a keystone species on the Chippewa National Forest. Through this project we will increase the amount of habitat for wildlife that needs abundant forest structure. Through research we have found that pockets of prime</p>

snowshoe hare habitat remains, mostly in lowland white cedar stands. These pockets are not sufficient in size to support snowshoe hare populations large enough to enable population cycles that were present in years past to occur. It appears that snowshoe hare need some quality habitat around their primary cover for them to move into and do well for their population to cycle. Improving the quality of these secondary habitats will be the focus of this project. When this cover is not sufficient hare are lost to predation at too high a level for cycles to occur. We believe that in many cases this project could be tie in with ongoing logging and thinning projects with minor alterations in how these practices are conducted. Outside of planned projects we would like to look for opportunities to incorporate habitat enhancements through tree drops, moving structure into stands, or other practices that are yet to be identified.

Initially the in-kind work of CNF and DRM contributions would focus on finding and ground truthing sites with a primary hare habitat base and suitable adjacent secondary habitat that needs improvement. CNF contribution will be working to help identify sites and preparing the NEPA or Cat.X documents for the project areas that involve their lands. Work to identify suitable stands is already underway by DRM staff and several sites have been found but are not suitable to the scope of this project. Once established this list of hare sites would provide a base to work from as we hope expand the scope of this work in the future when funding becomes available.

Since this is a pilot project and per-acre cost estimates of this type of work is not readily available and would vary greatly by site conditions and access; a suitable site with 200-400 acres of secondary habitat restoration work will be selected, surveyed to establish baseline data and then the secondary habitat improvement work will be done via contract with monitoring to follow the subsequent years. Roughly 30% of the Title II contribution would go to site and contract preparation and the remaining funds would go to work on the ground. We plan to address a minimum of 500 acres but this number could vary and expand depending on cost factors that would be determined by the amount of work needed for secondary habitat improvement, site conditions, and if we can leverage this funding to tie into another source of funding whether it be stewardship, ongoing merchantable timber harvest, agreement or grant work.

11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Land Status:

If Yes, specify: Project will focus on CNF and tribal lands, but other ownerships could also be included.

12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)

☐ Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.

☒ Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.

☒ Restores and improves land health.

☐ Restores water quality

13. Project Type	
a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Road Decommission/Obliteration	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail Obliteration
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Productivity Improvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Health Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Restoration
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish Habitat Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Control of Noxious Weeds
<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish Native Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuels Management/Fire Prevention
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement CWPP Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify): Tribal TCP enhancement
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1): Wildlife Habitat Restoration	

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish
Miles of road maintained:
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved:
Acres of soil productivity improved:
Miles of stream/river restored/improved:
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:
Miles of trail maintained:
Miles of trial obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved: TBD (minimum 25)
Acres of noxious weeds controlled:
Timber volume generated:
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks:
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention):
Direct economic activity benefit:
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: Spring 2017	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: Winter 2020
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

CNF, MN DNR Wildlife,

18. Identify benefits to communities.

Culturally snowshoe hare provides a valuable resource for Tribal members to harvest and depend upon to feed their families in winter months along with it being a food source for predators that are trapped by the families throughout the forest.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?

The Snowshoe Hare is a keystone species that provide a valuable food source for many Northern MN predators including the Canadian Lynx, Northern Goshawk, Red Fox, Pine Marten, Fisher, Coyote, and Bobcat. Through expansion of available habitat we can help not only the hare but also all the predators that feed and depend on this resource. It is a major part of the healthy ecosystem that we have on the Chippewa National Forest. This project would provide habitat to many wildlife species and help to maintain the biodiversity of CNF. Due to the nature of this work being a pilot project and our hope to expand on this idea we could be taking the first step towards strengthening the forest to the effects of climate change through habitat restoration and improvement.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Americorps	<input type="checkbox"/> YCC/CCC Crews
<input type="checkbox"/> Job Corps	<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Contract
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Merchantable Timber Pilot	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Stewardship contracts Tribal DRM

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Materials? X ☐ Yes ☒ No

22. Anticipated Project Costs \$ 30,000 over three years
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$20,000, over three years
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

- Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.
- Identify who will conduct the monitoring:

- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):

25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

- ☒ Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.
☐ Other, please explain:

Project Recommended By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Chairperson

Resource Advisory Committee

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Forest Supervisor

National Forest

Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	<i>Column A</i> Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution	<i>Column B</i> Requested Title II Contribution	<i>Column C</i> Other Contributions	<i>Column D</i> Total Available Funds
a. Field Work & Site Surveys	\$5,000		DRM Biologists, Forester, Admin, \$10,000	\$15,000
b. NEPA/CEQA	\$2,000			\$2,000
c. ESA Consultation	\$500			\$500
d. Permit Acquisition	NA			
e. Project Design & Engineering	NA			
f. Contract/Grant Preparation	\$1000	\$5,000 Site & contract preparation work		\$5,000
g. Contract/Grant Administration	\$2000			
h. Contract/Grant Cost		\$15,000 Contract and implementation		\$15,000
i. Salaries				
j. Materials & Supplies				
k. Monitoring	\$1,500		DRM Biologists – \$2,000	\$3,500
l. Other 2, Partner Indirect Cost			DRM IDC 20.33% - \$2,400	\$2,400
m. Project Sub-Total				
n. FS Indirect Costs (5% overhead)				
Total Cost Estimate	\$12,000	\$20,000	\$14,400	\$46,400

NOTES:

- a. Pre-NEPA Costs
- g. Includes Contracting/Grant Officer Representative (COR) costs. Excludes Contracting/Grant Officer costs.
- i. Cost of implementing project
- l. Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.
- n. Forest Service indirect costs, including contracting/grant officer costs if needed.